

AND TIMES HERALD

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Hagerty's Stand Right and Wrong

By Drew Pearson

HIM HAGERTY'S soothing groups statement that the Gaither report showed the United States was in no danger "at this time" was technically correct, yet highly misleading.

This columnist has seen the Gaither report and can state that it contains a very revealing chart giving the parallel military strengths of the United States and the U. S. S. R.

The chart shows that after World War II, American military strength dropped, then caught up with and surpassed Russia's during the Korean war.

But here is the danger which worried the experts who prepared the Gaither report—most of them Republicans—but which apparently does not worry Mr. Hagerty: During the Eisenhower Administration, the chart shows American military strength dropping from its previous strong position to a parallel position with Russia's as of today. Thus Hagerty was technically correct when he used the words "at this time."

However, the chart shows that at the present rate of American and Russian production, American military strength drops rapidly below Russia's from now on.

The Russian military curve goes up. The American curve goes down. Within a year, the United States will be dangerously behind Russia.

And since it takes two years or more for new bombers, new submarines, and new missiles to get into production, it will take at least two years to reverse and remedy the American military down-curve—despite the complacency of Mr. Hagerty. This is assuming, of course, that Russia stands still.

Note—It will be during the next two years, when Russia has a military advantage, that the United States will face a grave danger of preventive war.



Pearson

Washington Pipe-Line

Congratulations to Ambassador William Lacey for finally working out a comprehensive plan with Russia for people-to-people friendship. Our only basic safeguard for peace is building up American goodwill with the Russian people, who for the most part are just as anxious for peace as the

American people. . . . Vice President Nixon has brought powerful political pressure on San Francisco's Mayor George Christopher to bow out of the California Senate race. Christopher is expected to yield. . . . Secretary Benson's further cut of price supports on milk and dairy products has cost him some of his few remaining friends in Congress, including one of his warmest supporters—Sen. Aiken of Vermont. The new session of Congress is likely to overrule Benson and restore the supports on dairy products to 82½ per cent.

Capital News Capsules

Nickel and Brothers—Congressman Jack Brooks of Texas has put his brother on the Government payroll as staff director of the Government Operations Subcommittee investigating the intricate problem of a big Government nickel contract to Freeport Sulphur in Cuba. Brooks is a good Congressman, has saved the taxpayers a lot of money. But some people are wondering what his brother, Edward C. Brooks, can know about nickel, when for the past three years he was music and drama critic for the New Orleans Times-Picayune. His brother is drawing \$12,500 a year. . . . Congressmen are probing to see what John Hay Whitney, former chairman of Freeport Sulphur, now American Ambassador to Great Britain, may have had to do with the very lush contract given by the Eisenhower Administration to Freeport Sulphur. Whitney was one of Ike's biggest campaign contributors.

America's Greatest Danger—Central Intelligence regards Russian submarines as a much greater danger than the long range ICBM. Russia now has 600 submarines, far more modern subs than ours. She has subs which can slip up to our coast and fire missiles 750 miles inland without even coming to the surface. We would have no idea they were present. . . . The Russians are now testing a missile which can be fired 1200 to 1800 miles, also from under water. Our big Air Force base at Tripoli, North Africa, biggest outside the United States, could be put out of commission in 15 minutes by Russian subs. The cities of Pittsburgh, Birmingham, Buffalo, Cleveland, are all vulnerable to submarine attack, to say nothing of those along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

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